

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
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ACTION SCT-00 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AF-01	AID-00	A-00
	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	INL-01	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	OIGO-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01
	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00
	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
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	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/036W				

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R 282238Z JAN 99 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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VISAS VIPER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/09
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, KVPR, SNAR, PINS, PREL, CVIS, PINR, ASEC, CO, SL,
IS
SUBJECT: MERCENARY YAIR KLEIN POSSIBLY ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE

REF: 98 BOGOTA 11209

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN, REASON 1.5 (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ABOUND THAT FORMER ISRAELI ARMY OFFICER YAIR KLEIN, MERCENARY TRAINER OF NARCO-PARAMILITARY GROUPS IN COLOMBIA IN THE 1980'S, HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE ARREST, POST HAD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 25 OCT 2004 200400772

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 28 APR 2004 200400772

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HEARD AS RECENTLY AS SIX WEEKS AGO THAT KLEIN WAS IN AFRICA. EVEN IF THE REPORTS PROVE TRUE, COLOMBIA HAS NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH SIERRA LEONE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON JANUARY 22, COLOMBIAN MEDIA REPORTED THAT YAIR KLEIN HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE. KLEIN, AN ISRAELI CITIZEN AND FORMER ISRAELI ARMY OFFICER, IS WANTED IN COLOMBIA ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY ("CONCIERTO PARA DELINQUIR") AND GIVING INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING TO PARAMILITARY GROUPS COMMANDED BY HENRY PEREZ, AS WELL AS FOR GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA AND PABLO ESCOBAR OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. TO PEREZ'S PARAMILITARY GROUPS ARE ATTRIBUTED THE NOTORIOUS MASSACRES AT SEGOVIA, LA ROCHELA AND THE MURDER OF 19 TRAVELLING SALESMEN, ALL IN THE LATE 1980'S. GRADUATES OF KLEIN'S TRAINING WENT ON TO LEAD PABLO ESCOBAR'S FRONTAL ASSAULT ON THE COLOMBIAN STATE IN THE LATE 1980'S AND EARLY 1990'S: BLOWING UP AIRLINERS, CAR-BOMBING COMMERCIAL CENTERS, AND ASSASSINATING

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SEVERAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES INCLUDING LUIS CARLOS GALAN SARMIENTO. MORE RECENTLY A KLEIN ALUMNUS, RENE CARDENAS GALLEANO, WAS ARRESTED IN JUNE 1998 AND CHARGED WITH HELPING ORCHESTRATE ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MOST INFAMOUS RECENT MASSACRES, THE JULY 1997 PARAMILITARY TAKEOVER OF AND SUBSEQUENT MASSACRE IN THE TOWN OF MAPIRIPAN, META.

3. (U) IN ADDITION TO TRAINING THESE PARAMILITARY GROUPS, KLEIN IS ALSO ACCUSED OF PROCURING SOPHISTICATED ARMS FOR THEM. A 1989 KLEIN-BACKED VENTURE TO OPEN A NARCO-FINANCED, INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST PARAMILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL ON THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF ANTIGUA CAUSED A MAJOR SCANDAL IN ISRAEL, BROUGHT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUAN PM BIRD AND PROMPTED INVESTIGATIONS BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. SENATE AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

4. (C) REFTEL IS ONE OF SEVERAL POST REPORTS OUTLINING PEREZ'S TERRORIST ACTIONS AND MENTIONING KLEIN'S CONNECTIONS. IN THAT REPORT, WRITTEN IN OCTOBER 1998, POST MISTAKENLY REPORTED THAT KLEIN WAS STILL IN JAIL IN ISRAEL (BASED ON HIS 1991 CONVICTION AND SENTENCING IN ISRAEL). IN DECEMBER 1998, A DIPLOMAT AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BOGOTA TOLD US THAT KLEIN WAS NEITHER IN JAIL NOR IN ISRAEL, BUT RATHER RUMORED TO BE IN AFRICA PROVIDING TRAINING TO "AN ARMED FACTION" ON THE CONTINENT. THE ISRAELI DIPLOMAT PROVIDED NO SOURCE FOR THE INFORMATION AND NO SPECIFIC DETAILS.

5. (U) ON JANUARY 23, COLOMBIAN DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" PUBLISHED WHAT IT CLAIMED TO BE "AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW" WITH JULIUS SPENCER, MINISTER OF INFORMATION FOR SIERRA LEONE. SPENCER SAID THAT KLEIN HAD BEEN CAPTURED A WEEK AND A HALF PRIOR AND WAS IMPRISONED IN FREETOWN. SPENCER IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT KLEIN WAS "WITH THE REBELS [AT THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE] AND WAS THEIR ARMS

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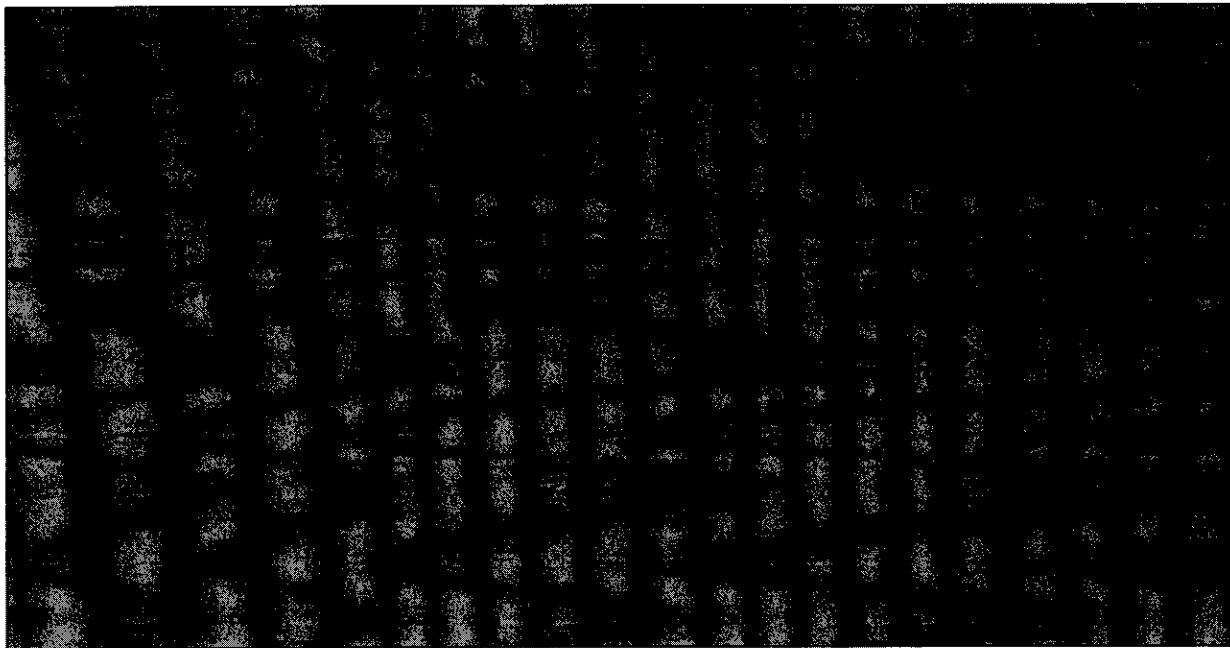
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SUPPLIER."



7. (C) POST WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES HAVE ABOUT KLEIN'S WHEREABOUTS, LEGAL STATUS, OR INVOLVEMENT IN ADDITIONAL TERRORIST ACTS. PLEASE ADVISE IF THE INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED WITH COLOMBIAN LEGAL AUTHORITIES AND/OR THE MFA.

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AF-01	AID-00	A-00
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	INL-01	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	OIGO-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01
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	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	VO-03	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/036W				

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7001
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/28/09
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, KVPR, SNAR, PINS, PREL, CVIS, PINR, ASEC, CO, SL,
IS
SUBJECT: MERCENARY YAIR KLEIN POSSIBLY ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE

8. (C) COMMENTS: KLEIN CONTINUES TO HOLD FASCINATION FOR THE COLOMBIAN PRESS BECAUSE HE IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE NARCO-VIOLENCE OF THE MID AND LATE-1980'S WHO IS STILL ALIVE. THE PRESS PRINTS WHAT MOST OF WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM ALONSO DE JESUS BAQUERO ("VLADIMIR") AND OSCAR DE JESUS ECHANDIA, TWO MAIN PLAYERS (BOTH WORKED FOR HENRY PEREZ) WHO ARE STILL ALIVE. ONE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT THE PARAMILITARIES TRAINED BY KLEIN, "PLANTED THE HORROR IN WHICH COLOMBIA HAS LIVED THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS..."

9. (C) WHILE THE GOC HAS NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH SIERRA LEONE, PRESS REPORTS HAVE QUOTED THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ DE SOTO, AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES IN THE MFA AS SAYING THAT THE GOC IS EXAMINING "ALTERNATIVE LEGAL MEANS" FOR KLEIN'S EXTRADITION IN THIS CASE, SUCH AS VIA INTERPOL. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW INTENT ON KLEIN'S EXTRADITION THE GOC REALLY IS. END COMMENTS.

BIO DATA

10. (U) COLOMBIAN PRESS REPORTS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BIO DATA ON KLEIN: YAIR GAL KLEIN AKA JAIR KLEIN (DPOB: 1944, 1946 OR 1952, KIBBUTZ NIZANIM, ISRAEL) IS A RETIRED LT. COL. IN THE ISRAELI ARMY WHO USED PASSPORT NUMBER 2597070 WHEN HE ENTERED COLOMBIA IN 1987. HE OWNS AND RUNS A COMPANY CALLED "SPEARHEAD" WHICH HE USES FOR HIS

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MERCENARY WORK. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE STUDIED MILITARY AND GENERAL HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV. IT IS BELIEVED THAT KLEIN LEFT COLOMBIA IN 1989 AFTER TRAINING AT LEAST 45 MEN FOR PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES. SEPARATE PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT KLEIN HELD A SENIOR POSITION IN ISRAELI MILITARY INDUSTRIES.

11. (U) THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE (FISCALIA) IN FEBRUARY 1998, CHARGED KLEIN AND FOUR OTHER FOREIGNERS WITH CONSPIRACY ("CONCIERTO PARA DELINQUIR") AND INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST ACTIONS. THE OTHERS CHARGED WITH KLEIN:

-- MELNYK, TERRY AKA TEDDY. BORN IN ISRAEL, ESTIMATED TO BE 40 YEARS OLD AT PRESENT, MELNYK IS A RETIRED CAPTAIN IN THE ISRAELI ARMY. IN ADDITION TO HELPING KLEIN TEACH HIS CLASSES, MELNYK IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KLEIN'S TRANSLATOR WHILE IN COLOMBIA. (NOTE: POST HAS BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY MELNYK'S PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING PARAMILITARIES THROUGH OTHER, CREDIBLE SOURCES IN COLOMBIA. END NOTE.)

-- ABRAHAM, TZEDAKA. BORN IN ISRAEL, ESTIMATED TO BE 55 YEARS OLD AT PRESENT, ABRAHAM IS A RETIRED LT. COL. IN THE ISRAELI ARMY WHO IS SAID TO HAVE COMMANDED THAT ARMY'S ANTI-TERRORISM UNIT. ABRAHAM IS CHARGED BY THE FISCALIA WITH BEING AN INSTRUCTOR WORKING FOR "SPEARHEAD" WHO ASSISTED KLEIN. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ISRAELI PASSPORT NUMBER 3212644 ISSUED IN RAMALA.

-- MERARIOT, IZHACK SHOSHANI. AN ISRAELI CITIZEN ALSO CHARGED WITH HELPING KLEIN TEACH HIS "COURSES." NO DOB OR AGE ESTIMATE IS AVAILABLE, BUT HE IS SAID TO LIVE IN "EIN KAREM B-200, JERUSALEM, 95744." PRESS REPORTS FURTHER INDICATE THAT HE USES ISRAELI
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NATIONAL ID NUMBER (TE'UDAT ZE'UT) 5327858 AND ISRAELI PASSPORT 2741828. WHEN HE WAS IN COLOMBIA HE WAS ISSUED ALIEN ID NUMBER 222954 IN BOGOTA, WHICH HAS NOW EXPIRED.

-- AFEK, ARIK PICCIOTO. (NOTE: ALTHOUGH LISTED ON THE 1998 INDICTMENT, POST HAS CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT AFEK WAS KILLED IN A MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING GARAGE ON JANUARY 24, 1990. END NOTE.) ALSO ONE OF KLEIN'S TRAINERS AND POSSIBLE BUSINESS PARTNERS, VERY LITTLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE EXCEPT THAT HE IS REPORTEDLY TRAVELED ON A JORDANIAN PASSPORT NUMBERED 2528806. (NOTE: POST HAS SERIOUS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF AFEK'S JORDANIAN CITIZENSHIP. END NOTE.)

12. (U) TWO COLOMBIANS ARE ALSO COVERED IN THE FEBRUARY 1998 INDICTMENT.

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-- RUBIO ROJAS, LUIS ALFREDO (DPOB: DECEMBER 17, 1948, GUADUAS, CUNDINAMARCA, COLOMBIA). SON OF POLICARPO RUBIO AND PAULINA ROJAS, MARRIED TO LEDY YEPES, RUBIO IS ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING AND PARTICIPATING IN PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO AREA IN THE MID-1980'S. IN 1987, HE WAS MAYOR OF PUERTO BOYACA, A MAJOR PARAMILITARY STRONGHOLD IN THOSE DAYS. HE ONCE WORKED AS A JEWELER. HE USES CEDULA (NATIONAL ID) AND PASSPORT NUMBER 10158031. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN APRIL 1998 ON NARCOTICS RELATED CHARGES, BUT RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS DO NOT INDICATE HIS CURRENT JUDICIAL SITUATION.

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AF-01	AID-00	A-00
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	INL-01	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	OIGO-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01
	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00
	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	VO-03
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/035W					

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R 282238Z JAN 99 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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TAGS: PTER, PHUM, KVPR, SNAR, PINS, PREL, CVIS, PINR, ASEC, CO, SL, IS

SUBJECT: MERCENARY YAIR KLEIN POSSIBLY ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE

-- ALVAREZ MONTERO, CARLOS ARTURO AKA TRAMPAS (DPOB: OCTOBER 6, 1955, PACHO, CUNDINAMARCA, COLOMBIA). ALVAREZ IS THE SON OF PEDRO ALVAREZ AND DORA MONTERO AND HAS WORKED AS A SALESMAN. HE IS ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN UNSPECIFIED NARCOTICS CRIMES AND PARAMILITARY ACTIONS. HE USES CEDULA AND PASSPORT NUMBER 70720382.

13. (U) CABLE NOT SENT TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN DUE TO "SUSTAIN" STATUS OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AT THAT POST.

KAMMAN

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